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not only illustrated the annals of their own country, but have also helped to elucidate the history and institutions of other nations. Some of the most important results of these studies were embodied in Mr. Innes's interesting and instructive volume on Scotland in the Middle Ages, noticed in a former number of this journal; and in the work now before us, he has collected some further fruits of his inquiries in the same field of historical investigation. The substance of the volume has already appeared in works issued by the Bannatyne Club and other publishing societies in Scotland; but to most readers the whole will be new. The materials collected by Mr. Innes are now distributed into three chapters of unequal length. Of these, the first traces in a rapid manner the ecclesiastical history of Scotland from the introduction of Christianity, including notices of the principal bishoprics, Glasgow, Caithness, and Aberdeen, and of the great monasteries, Melrose, Scone, Newbattle, Kelso, and others. It exhibits much research, but from the multiplicity of uninteresting details, and the frequent occurrence of unfamiliar names, the narrative is singularly dry and tedious. The next chapter records the history of the Universities of Glasgow and Aberdeen, and is at once curious and entertaining. It is enriched with many striking extracts from contemporary diaries and other trustworthy documents. As a picture of Scotch college life at different periods in the history of the two Universities, it will be read with much interest. The third chapter is based on the Morton, Breadalbane, Cawdor, and Kilravock Papers, and gives an excellent view of the social progress of the country as illustrated by the history of those families. Like the chapter on college life, it comprises much important information, and is a valuable contribution to historical literature. The Appendix contains several original documents, together with a discussion of some curious points in Scotch history. The worth of the volume is much enhanced by a very full Glossary and an Index.

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14. — *The History of France.* By PARKE GODWIN. Vol. I. (Ancient Gaul.) New York: Harper and Brothers. 1860. 8vo. pp. 495.

It is a singular fact, that there is in our language no good history of France. Important eras, detached periods, have been treated by English authors with great intelligence and skill; yet the literature of England lacks a full and satisfactory narrative of the events that have made its neighbor across the Channel perhaps the most influential nation on the continent of Europe. The interest which British statesmen and

scholars have felt in the affairs of France has, doubtless, been satisfied by the copious collections made by French writers and in their own language; while the information needed or desired by the body of the English people has been competently supplied by such meagre sketches and epitomes as those of White, Smedley, and Crowe. We may well congratulate ourselves that in our country has arisen the scholar whose learning and abilities have specially fitted him for this task, and whose love of literary investigation and fondness for this particular subject are strong enough to carry him through all its difficulties. To write the entire history of the French people, from the early days when the Gauls first appear in the annals of the world, down to the close of the last century, involves a labor which nothing but a genuine enthusiasm would willingly encounter. To write it in a manner that befits the remarkable story itself, demands not only learning, patient labor, and the mastery of a good style, but the highest form of historical genius, — that rare capacity for selecting and grouping, for combination and arrangement, for painting, in clear perspective and fit colors, the long series of the events and personages that stand out prominently in the life of a nation. That Mr. Godwin will exhibit that genius, we are not yet prepared to affirm; but we have no doubt that his work, when completed, will be an invaluable addition to our historical literature, and entitle him to a place among the more conspicuous historians who have made our language in that department so illustrious.

This first volume opens with the earliest notices that history furnishes of the ancient dwellers in Gaul, and closes with the Treaty at Verdun, in 843, by which the dominions of Charlemagne were divided among his sons. The sketches of the different portions of this long period are, of course, of very unequal interest; yet all are given in a lively, picturesque style, which nowhere allows the reader's attention to flag. The importance of the several eras is well discriminated, and their due prominence given to the divers personages who appear on the canvas. Charles Martel, Pepin, and Charlemagne are presented with great distinctness, and the details of their respective careers skilfully wrought out. The classical scholar will read attentively, and not without instruction, the account of the Roman dominion in Gaul, and its permanent effects there. And though few in our day care anything for the internal wars of Austrasia and Neustria, not many, we are persuaded, will be disposed to omit the chapter that records them.

If we rightly understand Mr. Godwin's Preface, his plan is to complete his labors in six volumes, bringing his work down to the period of the Revolution of 1789. The next volume will treat of Feudal France to the time of St. Louis; the third, of the period of the national and religious wars; the fourth, of the times of the great ministers, Sully, Mazarin, and

Richelieu; the fifth, of the reign of Louis XIV.; and the last, of the eighteenth century. We shall look eagerly for those coming volumes, and shall expect to find them worthy of the author's genius, learning, and industry, and a valuable contribution to the literature of our country.

Mr. Godwin writes generally in a very pleasant and sprightly, though occasionally too ambitious style, and shows an excellent mastery of the English tongue, which he uses commonly with great propriety and effect. Yet he is guilty sometimes of what seems to us an unpardonable affectation, or something worse, in his introduction of strange words. We can bear, though we are not pleased, to meet our old familiar Odin under the disguise of Odhinn; and though we are aware what work Gregory of Tours and others make of Frankish proper names, we hardly like to meet him whom we have so long known as Clovis, transformed into Chlodowig, and Lothaire changed into Lutherr. But worse than this, why will not "eager," or "covetous," answer Mr. Godwin's needs as well as *avid*, which stares us in the face on the very first page. He seems to delight in *consternated*, where "frightened" would be strong enough. *Ascribed to the glebe*, whatever may be thought of it as a rendering of *ascripti glebæ*, is certainly not English; and when he says *atoned with his hide*, few would at once think of a forfeiture of landed property. We doubt the fitness of *equal lances* as a translation of the *æqua lance* of St. Gregory, when plainly the notion is simply of a pair of scales. When he says, "The Roman *rhethors* *coruscated* with congratulatory metaphors," he has surely forgotten the law of simplicity. There are other like cases. They are only blemishes, yet very disagreeable ones, in a work generally marked by good taste, and which has so much real excellence and merit.

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15. — *Wissenschaftliche Grammatik der Englischen Sprache* von EDUARD FIEDLER, Weiland Oberlehrer am Gymnasium zu Zerbst, und DR. CARL SACHS, Oberlehrer am Gymnasium zu Brandenburg a. H. Leipzig: Wilhelm Violet. 1861. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. xix., 314, 412.

A WORK of true German scholarship is the new English Grammar by Edward Fiedler and Carl Sachs. It must be allowed, setting all national pride aside, that little enough has been done to throw light upon the historical development of the English language, and now we find German scholars leading the way. Appreciating at their just value the works of Latham and others, it must still be admitted that our language possesses nothing which for research and comprehensiveness can compare with the labors of the brothers Grimm in Germany, and their numerous successors.